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Georgia State Parks

VIEWS

March 1963

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Twilight Springtime

Charlotte Abetz

*The springtime is unwinding spools of gold,
And all things in comparison seem old;
As nature spins in frenzy all day long,
And little throats are bursting with their song.*

*While myriad of blossoms gather round,
In lovely gentle springtime—
A sentimental springtime,
I set great store by springtime,
Where newborn strength is found.*

*The fields are weaving emerald brocade,
All edged with violets of royal shade;
While lilac blossoms scent the roving breeze,
And dainty petals drift from apple trees.*

*Beneath their glowing boughs I like to sit,
In balmy rosy springtime,
The radiant gay springtime,
Romantic, twilight springtime,
When lights in homes are lit.*

Horace G. Caldwell ©
Director

Barbara R.
Editor

WHAT IS PARK INTERPRETATION?

The word "interpretation" is a public service that has so recently come into our cultural world that to resort to a dictionary would be fruitless. The word has special implications. Translations from one language to another would be used as the construction placed upon a legal document or a mythical explanation of dreams.

Millions of visitors enjoy our national and state parks, our battlefields and museums that preserve treasures telling the story of our natural and man-made heritage. Thousands of naturalists, historians, archaeologists, and other specialists are engaged in the work of revealing to the visitors something of the beauty, wonder, inspiration, and spiritual meaning that lies behind what the visitor can see. The custodian of these treasures is called "interpretation."

Colonial Williamsburg or the Grand Canyon of Colorado would be examples of interpretation. For dictionary purposes, interpretation is "an educational activity which aims to reveal meanings and relationships through the use of original objects by firsthand experience and by illustrated media rather than simply to communicate factual information."

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What America really needs is more young people who will carry to their jobs the same enthusiasm for getting ahead that they display in traffic.

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HELPFUL HINT

To keep installment debts within your means, keep your total debt under 20 per cent of take-home pay after taxes and mortgage payments.

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WATCH OUT FOR CAMPERS!

If the number of inquiries received are any indication of the number of campers who will visit State Parks this summer, the Park Superintendents should get ready for a record number of visitors this season.

During the past weeks, we have had thousands of letters requesting camping information, and the mail is heavier every day. The surprising note is that over 80% of the letters come from out-of-state.

This promises to be the biggest season yet, so let's get everything ready and shining---our facilities and our smiles.

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"SPRING COMES MOVING ACROSS THE LAND"

It never has failed, and it never will.

The wind swings 'round and the violets come;
There's a touch of green on a bare gray hill,
And the robin is building himself a home.

Year after year, year after year--
That is the way that God has planned--
We feel a loveliness somewhere near,
And Spring comes moving across the land.

Boughs grow heavy with leaf and bud,
The sky is a sea with drifting sails;
And Spring comes back, as we knew she would.

That is God's plan, and it never fails!

---Nancy Byrd Turner

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The young man looked at the high prices on the night club menu, turned to his date and said, "What will you have, my plump little doll?"

NEWS FROM THE PARKS

A. H. STEPHENS MEM. STATE PARK

Crawfordville J. Lewis Taylor, Supt.

(News this month submitted by Miss Laura Lee Crawford, Curator of the A. H. Stephens Museum)

We have been having interesting visitors to our park these days. On March 10, Miss Paulien van den Tempel, The Hague, Netherlands, an exchange student from the University of Georgia, visited the Museum and Liberty Hall. She came with Mr. and Mrs. Randolph Holder. Mr. Holder is manager and announcer of an Athens radio station. On the same day, we had another radio manager and announcer, George D. Harden of Thomson. It would be nice if they gave us a plug!

We are having school groups now and expecting more as the season gets underway. Mr. and Mrs. D. H. Jordan of Granada Hills, California, were recent visitors and were interested in camping sites in Georgia. I was glad to have a folder for them.

The first tent campers of the season were a Physical Education teacher from the University of Georgia and his family.

We ladies of this park are proud to wear the uniforms just issued by the Department of State Parks. They are blue gabardine.

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AMICALOLA FALLS STATE PARK

Juno E. C. Collins, Supt.

The sun is shining and it is a beautiful day. It makes us begin to look forward to another busy season, which is just around the corner.

We have put in 528 feet of concrete pipe in our new parking area, and the crushed rock to surface the area will be delivered next week.

We were happy to have our new Director, Mr. Horace Caldwell, and his wife visit with us some time ago, and look over the park.

We have received our workbench for the shop and also some tools which will come in handy. We are especially proud of the vise; it saves man power.....

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BOBBY BROWN STATE PARK

Elberton M. B. Andrews, Supt.

Well, after the coldest winter ever in my life, many visitors have started back visiting our park.

We have been adding tent mounds and tables to our camping area. The superintendent's residence has been completed and is very beautiful. Will be moving into it in the near future.

Our three picnic shelters have been wired for electricity recently. We are now in the process of painting our playground equipment.

We are looking forward to a visit from our new Director, Mr. Caldwell.

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CLOUDLAND CANYON STATE PARK

Rising Fawn J. M. Crawford, Supt.

During the freezing weather, we had 1,271 visitors! They like to stand on the bluff and view the ice formations in the gorge, which are really something to see.....

The freezing snow and ice put us behind with our work. Hauled gravel a distance of 26 miles to repair roads damaged by deep freeze.....

We had a narrow escape weatherwise recently. It looked for a while as though we were going to have another ice storm, but it warmed up and turned to rain.....

(cont'd next page)

CLOUDLAND CANYON (continued)

We have been building tent mounds. Put two coats of red lead on barbecue grills for rust control. Have been raking leaves and cleaning up in general, as well as grooving out new area.

We received 10 concrete tables, 4 grills, 1 electric drill, and a G.E. refrigerator. We are very grateful for these.

Very anxious to meet Mr. Caldwell.

Hope to have telephone installed in two or three days.

P.S. Sending picture that Larry drew from Progress Report cover. It is in oil and we think it does credit to the picture. Hope you like it. We are very proud of the scenery here. He is painting some now from the natural scene.

Editor's Note: Many thanks for the picture. We have it framed in our office where it can be seen by all visitors. We, too, think it does the picture credit.

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ELIJAH CLARK MEM. STATE PARK

Lincolnton J. F. Fortson, Supt.

Despite the extremely cold weather, progress is marching forward at Elijah Clark.

Hot water heaters have been installed in each comfort station; the museum is nearing completion; the superintendent's residence is awaiting its final inspection; and a new camping area is being developed. The site of this new camping area is simply beautiful. We believe it will be a campers' paradise with its mile and a half of water frontage.

Many former campers have visited the park on week-ends. They all expressed the desire for warmer weather---camping weather.

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GORDONIA ALATAMAHA STATE PARK

Reidsville C. P. Flowers, Supt.

Although the weather has been bad, as you know, I am doing some spring cleaning, as the weather permits. Recently, I have transplanted a few hundred pine seedlings.....

Many thanks to the Parks Department for the electric hand drill, chain saw, and traffic counter. The traffic counter is certainly a big help in keeping up with the number of visitors coming into the park.

Mr. and Mrs. Horace Caldwell dropped by Gordonia Alatomaha on Saturday afternoon, March 2nd. It was a most pleasant surprise---glad to have them visit us. They had already visited Mr. Moore over at Magnolia Springs and were planning to stop by Little Ocmulgee for a visit with Mr. Willcox.....

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HARD LABOR CREEK STATE PARK

Rutledge T. D. Carter, Supt.

The third week in February being Boy Scout Week, we had 4 troops out doing pioneer camping. Also had 3 family groups using our day use facilities in addition to a number of picnickers. We had a total of 1448 visitors for the month.

The weather, being rather cold during most of the month, discouraged most of the fishermen, although a few did come out and several nice strings of crappie were caught.

Maybe March will bring a change and things will begin to pick up.

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INDIAN SPRINGS STATE PARK

Indian Springs B.F. McMichael, Supt.

The calendar shows spring begins the 21st of March---our visitors are in disagreement. Sunday, March 3, we had approximately 1200 visitors,

(continued next page)

INDIAN SPRINGS STATE PARK (cont'd)

which made us happy to know that we had lived through our worst winter in years. We had visitors having lunch in the picnic area, while others were just out walking and visiting our museum and lake area where many were fishing. Many others were coming by with their jugs for our mineral water, which is a good year 'round drawing card.

We are glad to know that we soon will have the privilege of starting a new season. In working together, it will be our goal to make this the best of all past years. We are proud of our park and want you to enjoy it with us---so visit with us often.

Our new superintendent residence is almost completed. Work has been slow due to bad weather. Right now, it seems to be in that never-finished stage but, barring all complications, we hope to move in before the season opens.

Many improvements have been made during the winter. The underbrush has been cleared out between the camping area and the lake. From the camping area you are now able to enjoy a beautiful waterfall. The picnic shelters at the lake have been floored with soil, which improves the appearance of the shelters. All winter repairs have been completed and we are in the process of painting.

We were pleasantly surprised to have Mr. and Mrs. Caldwell visit with us Sunday. We enjoyed their visit very much and we are looking forward to having them again real soon.

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A man's life is 20 years of having his mother ask him where he is going, 40 years of having his wife ask him the same question, and at the end, the mourners are wondering, too.

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LITTLE OCMULGEE STATE PARK

McRae Lee Willcox, Supt.

February was a cold, dreary month for us. We had a few childrens' parties at the clubhouse, lots of people riding through, and several pioneer campers. A group of Boy Scouts from Cochran came down to camp out but the weather was so bad they decided to use the group camp.

We have been clearing underbrush so as to extend the new camping area for a big season.

We were happy to have Mr. and Mrs. Caldwell spend this week-end with us. We enjoyed meeting them and are looking forward to more visits from them.

The weather was pretty today--- March 3---and we had more visitors in the park than we have had since before Christmas.

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F. D. ROOSEVELT STATE PARK

Pine Mountain T. E. Darden, Supt.

We wish to express our thanks to Mr. Caldwell for sending us to Pine Mountain. We like it fine.

Mr. Glenn, Col. Keasey, and Mr. Naugle have been so helpful in getting us settled. We have met some very nice people here who have given us a warm welcome.

The entire park is being renovated. We have a prison crew helping to clean out brush, etc. We hope to have another crew at a later date.

Applications are coming in for the group camps and cabins.

The stone cabins look very nice. The floors have been refinished and the walls and ceilings varnished. The Inn, too, is looking very nice.

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L. S. WALKER STATE PARK
Waycross C. H. Morgan, Supt.

Well, you gentlemen from the various parks who act as scribes for your area, it is time to come out of the hibernation and once more supply Miss Barbara with enough information to make our PARK VIEWS an informative part of the mailing list.

During the winter months, it is really hard to find much to write about. One thing we are proud of: One of the Waycross firemen caught a 13-pound bass and another fisherman caught a 2½-pound crappie in Laura Walker Lake. Don't come runnin' cause they just don't do it all the time. This happened last week. The old timers say this is by far the worst winter in their memories and I believe every word, too. But our attendance has been holding up better than could be expected. During January, we had 2624 visitors---and we have counters too---992 cars, 113 out-of-state cars; 98 boats, 360 fishermen, and 1723 picnickers. With the weather as bad as it was, we think this was exceptionally good.

Our beauti-f-u-l swimming pool was almost ready to be turned over officially but the "specs" called for a certain brand name of valves and the contractor decided, I presume, to find out if our engineering department was on the job. They were. Result: The valves had to be changed. They are here now. This pool and its facilities should be a swimmer's delight---'cause we've got the facilities.

Put in for a short leave to visit our son at Dobbins AFB, Marietta, and, of course, we intended to visit our good friends at Red Top Mountain, Hard Labor Creek and at the Atlanta Office while our boy was on duty hours. We arrived on Friday afternoon, February 22, and returned home the next day. 'Flu--'Flu. We are fine now and looking for a BIG season. Oh, yes! Our

lake is open for boating AND skiing, too.

Last fall, after the picnic season was over, we pulled our barbecue grills, field stripped them, scraped all the old grease off, and gave them a double coat of aluminum paint. Now we are ready to put them back for service again and the new ones, too. These are well received by the picnic crowds.

Our new workbench and the vise and the electric grinding machine have been installed. This is some help. We also nailed a 1" by 6" board on the back side of the top of the bench, bored 1/8" holes every 6 inches, pushed a 1½" machine bolt downward and fastened the top of a pint jar with a tap. You can then fill your jar with all the fast moving items and always see what you want through the glass jar. No, Sir! It was not my idea; a fisherman showed me how handy it was.

The weather has been funny. Down to 8 degrees one day and two days later up to 60 and the darn mosquitoes are right back again.

All of you come see us when you have the time or are passing by.

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HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

Wm. E. Sockwell	March	3
C. S. Steedley	"	4
Ranze Harper	"	8
Col. S. E. Wagner	"	21
B. Frank McMichael	"	28
J. M. Crawford	"	29

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Some people who boast of having open minds simply have empty heads.

NEW TRENDS IN CAMPING

During the week of March 4-9, the Region IV Convention of the American Camping Association was held at the Methodist Youth Camp at Leesburg, Florida.

The theme of the Conference was "Balancing Tradition with Change and Growth." The subject was well covered by such speakers as C. B. Colby of Outdoor Life Magazine and author of the Good Housekeeping book on Family Camping. Ross Allen, nature and camping expert, author, and operator of Ross Allen Institute, was another outstanding contributor to a worthwhile program.

An outstanding panel was offered by Dr. James D. Ray, Chairman of Biological Sciences at the University of South Florida; Dr. Dan R. Offord, staff Child Psychiatrist, Medical School, University of Florida; Dr. Joseph F. Gennarro, Jr. of the University of Florida; and Dr. John F. Mason, Jr., University of Florida School of Medicine. These men discussed "Stinging Threats to the Peace and Life of the Camper." This subject included "Snake Strike", "Stinging Insects", and "Poisonous Plants", all of which affect the health and happiness of all campers.

An interesting trend, made noticeable by the demonstration of camping equipment, and one which may affect the planning of our facilities in State Parks, is the fact that tents being used are much larger. There is quite a trend, also, towards the manufacture of station wagons or campers equipped with facilities and substituting for tents.

Since so many family campers have been enjoying this hobby for several years now, you will notice that many are evidencing interest in the sidelines of camping such as, nature trails, identification of wildlife and plants, and more primitive camping. This trend was noted by Mr. Colby in his speech, and he recom-

mended that more skills be taught in this sphere.

The Georgia District of the American Camping Association is sponsoring a Campcraft and Waterfront Workshop on March 21, a Camp Leadership Conference on April 19-21, and a Family Camping Workshop at Hard Labor Creek State Park on April 26-28.

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ATTITUDES

An Englishman, Irishman and an American were flying over the Sahara Desert. "A beastly place," said the Englishman. "The devil's home," said the Irishman. "Wow! What a parking lot!" said the American.

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"Since one of the vice presidents died," the brash young clerk told his boss, "do you think I could take his place?"

"It's okay with me," said the boss, "if you can arrange it with the undertaker."

---The Right Hand

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A REMINDER TO ALL PARK SUPERINTENDENTS - The Eighth In-Service Training Program for Park Superintendents will be held April 2, 3 and 4, 1963, at Rock Eagle Center, Eatonton, Georgia.

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When things begin to hum at a summer resort, it's probably mosquitoes!

---A. H. Hallock

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